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Sabbaruddin-Post

THE REASON WHY DPM'S POST NOT FILLED

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad did not appoint a deputy to avoid people from assuming that the person had his endorsement in the contest for the post of Umno deputy president next year, said Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik today.

He said it was for this reason that the Umno Supreme Council last night accepted Dr Mahathir's decision.

The posts of Deputy Prime Minister and Umno deputy president fall vacant following the expulsion of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the government and the party.

The Supreme Council also agreed that Umno vice-presidents Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would jointly perform the duties of Umno deputy president.

"Both vice-presidents will also act as joint chairmen of the Umno Management and Disciplinary Committee," he said.

Another Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib is taking leave after being charged in court for allegedly failing to declare his asset.

Asked whether the contest for the deputy president's post would be opened to all Umno members, Sabbaruddin said: "What happens tomorrow or days after will depend on current situation."

-- BERNAMA

SJA ABG